Dereservation of cloth reserved for Handloom Sector

2405. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of suicides and hunger deaths of handloom workers in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh due to lack of employment was eight during this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact dereservation of 22 types of cloth reserved for the handloom sector posed a threat to handloom industry;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to clear the huge stocks of handloom cloth lying uncleared with weavers' societies and master veawers; and

(d) whether Government propose to take immediate steps to provide work to handloom workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir. However, it has been reported that the livelihood of the handloom weavers in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh has been badly affected due to the slump in demand for lungies.

(b) The petitions filed by powerloom interests questioning the Constitutional validity of the provisions of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985, under which 22 items of cotton, silk, wool and blends have been reserved for exclusive production in the handloom sector, is pending before the Supreme Court for its verdict. As such, there is no proposal to dereserve 22 items reserved for exclusive production in the handloom sector.

(c) In order to assist the handloom agencies to clear the huge inventories of handloom cloth lying with them, a special rebate 20 per cent, to be equally shared between the Central and State Governments, on the sales effected in National Handloom Expos approved and organised by Development Commissioner for Handlooms.

(d) After obtaining a report from Government of Andhra Pradesh, the State Government was requested to send specific proposals to provide relief to the affected weavers. The Central Government have already released a sum of Rs. 60.00 lakhs as special advance for providing gainful employment to the unemployed weavers as a measure to ameliorate the distress conditions of the handloom weavers in Prakasam Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh. To examine the possibility of providing export avenues to the products of the weavers of Chirala, the Central Govt. has also deputed an officer of Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corportion of India, who has placed sample order with the weavers agencies in Chirala.

Electronic devices with Punjab Terrorists

2406. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of reports that Punjab terrorists have acquired sophisitcated electronic devices to carry out remote controlled bomb attacks in the Capital particularly on VVIPs;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to counter such measures; and

(c) whether such remote controlled bomb attacks have already been made on mobile patrols of the security agencies in Punjab and if so, what are the details in this regard?